

Wear Valley Amateur Swimming Club Changing Room Policy

Under the duty of care to safeguard children WVASC has a responsibility for the wellbeing of children in the changing rooms. Please note that parents of children under the age of 10 are expected to remain during their child's session.

Responsibility during a club session

Whilst a swimmer is training or competing at galas/competitions they are under the responsibility (duty of care) of the person who is teaching/coaching them at that time on behalf of the club. If a swimmer leaves the pool area, the coach/teacher needs to be aware of this. If a child fails to return in reasonable time, or appears upset upon leaving poolside the coach/teacher should request a suitable club official to check on them. It is best practice for two persons to look for the swimmer (the second swimmer could be a senior swimmer or another parent).

If a complaint is received that an incident has occurred in the changing room between a swimmer and another person in WVASC, the club has a duty to act upon that concern and investigate appropriately. If the incident involves a person not associated with the club, the pool manager should be made aware and consideration given as to whether the statutory agencies need informing.

Information for parents regarding changing facilities

- Facilities at Woodhouse Close are shared with members of the public as well as club members. During galas both at home and away swimming complex changing facilities are open to other club swimmers.
- The main facilities at Woodhouse Close are separate for males and females. There are however mixed changing facilities for younger children. Some other swimming complexes which WVASC attends for galas have mixed changing villages.
- Swimmers should respect other people in changing rooms and adhere to the swimmers code of conduct.
- Parents should be encouraged not to enter the changing room whilst the swimmers are changing unless their child is under the age of 8 where assistance is needed or the child has a disability and needs specific additional assistance or their child becomes upset.
- Parents and competitors need to be informed at events where other clubs are involved if the facilities are likely to be open to the general public at any time during the meet.

The ASA do not advise that parents supervise changing facilities as that places them and the children at risk of harm and allegation. Clubs may however place a club officer or appointed poolside helper on the outside of the doors in and out of the changing rooms. This allows children to call for assistance if this is required. This approach has proved helpful to many clubs when children have reported incidents of bullying or general behaviour issues between swimmers in the changing rooms.

Responsibility after a session is completed

The ASA view is that each affiliated club has a duty of reasonable care to swimmers, which extends to an awareness on the part of the club that their junior members have been collected in so far as is possible, at the conclusion of a session i.e. that a swimmer is not left unsupervised if a parent is late.

This has to be age appropriate, i.e. a 17 year old is capable of getting themselves home but a 12 year old is not.

If a parent is late in the collection of a child they should notify Woodhouse Close Swimming Complex. If a parent fails to collect a child the ASA Policy on Guidance on Late Collection of Children will be followed.

(Reviewed May 2014 and adapted from Wavepower 2012 p.66)